CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended)A computer-implemented method for an on-line server responsive to a client, the method comprising:

receiving ~~sending~~ a request from ~~a~~ the client ~~to a server~~, the server being chosen from a list of servers available to the client;

determining ~~at the server~~ whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request based on characteristics of the client;

if the server determines that ~~upon determining that~~ the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, sending an error message ~~from the server~~ to the client, the error message identifying ~~that~~ the server ~~is~~ as being off-line to enable the client to send the request to a next server on the list of servers~~; and,~~

~~upon receiving the error message at the client, automatically repeating the sending of the request to a next server of the list until the error message is not received~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving ~~sending~~ the ~~a~~ request from ~~a~~ the client ~~to a server~~ comprises generating the request at a queue manager of the client.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~sending~~ the ~~a request from~~ a client ~~to a server further comprises~~ receive~~sing~~ the request from the queue manager at an application programming interface (API) of the client.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~sending~~ the ~~a~~ request from the a client ~~to a server further comprises~~ is receive~~ding~~ ~~the request~~ from the API at a component of the client that maintains the list of servers.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[4], wherein sending the ~~a~~ request from the ~~a~~ client ~~to a server~~ further comprises sending the request using a remote procedure call of the client.

6. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a client to perform a method comprising:

sending a request to a server, the server being chosen from ~~of~~ a list of servers available to the client;

receiving a response to the request from the server; and

upon determining that the response comprises an error message that the server is off-line, even though the server is on-line, ~~as used by the server~~ when the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, automatically repeating the sending of the request to a next server of the list until the error message is not received.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein sending a request to a server comprises generating the request at a queue manager of the client.

8. (Original) The medium of claim 7, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises receiving the request from the queue manager at an application programming interface (API) of the client.

9. (Original) The medium of claim 8, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises receiving the request from the API at a component of the client that maintains the list of servers.

10. (Original) The medium of claim 9, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises sending the request using a remote procedure call of the client.

11-13. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A client computer comprising:

a communications device; and,

a computer program designed to automatically repeat sending a request to a different server of a list of servers via the communications device, the automatic repeat sending each time an error message is received indicating that a server is off-line, the off-line error message received from on-line servers that determine that the client computer is incapable of receiving delegated responses to requests and from servers that are off-line ~~until an error message indicating a server receiving the request is off-line is not received~~.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a server to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request from a client;

determining whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request;

determining whether the client is non-delegable ~~of a predetermined type~~; and,

upon determining that the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request due to the client being non-delegable ~~and that the client is a non-delegable~~ such that the client ~~that~~ would ~~does~~ not understand a delegation of the request to another server, sending an error message to the client that causes the client to forward the request to an alternative server ~~the server is off-line~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, the method further comprising:

determining whether the client is of a ~~second predetermined~~ type capable of understanding a delegation of the request;

upon determining that the sever is inappropriate to fulfill the request and that the client is of the ~~second predetermined~~ type capable of understanding a delegation, delegating the request to another server.

21. (Original) The medium of claim 19, the method further comprising upon determining that the server is appropriate to fulfill the request, fulfilling the request.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to transform a general purpose computer to a special purpose computer comprising:

a communications device; and,

means for sending via the communications device an error message that a computer is off-line in response to a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server when the computer is on-line but is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

27. (Original) The medium of claim 26, wherein the means is further for delegating the request to another computer via the communications device in response to a request from a client of a second predetermined type when the computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

28. (Original) The medium of claim 26, wherein the means is further for fulfilling the request when the computer is appropriate to fulfill the request.

29. (Original) The medium of claim 20, wherein the second predetermined type is a delegable client that understands a delegation of the request to another server.

30. (Canceled).

30. (New) A method for a server, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a client;

determining whether the request can be fulfilled locally; and

if the request cannot be fulfilled locally, handling the request according to characteristics of the client.

31. (New) A method for enabling non-delegable clients to exist in a client-server architecture having servers that do not maintain enterprise-wide directory service-related information, the method comprising:
providing each of the servers in the client-server architecture with computer-implemented instructions enabling the server to determine characteristics of a client from which the server receives a request; and
responding to the client by determining whether the request can be fulfilled; and
if the request cannot be fulfilled, responding according to the characteristics of the client.

32. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the characteristics of the client include whether the client is of a type that allows for delegation.

33. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the server returns an indication that the server cannot satisfy the request by sending an error message that results in the client determining that the server is unavailable to receive the request.

34. (New) A server computer comprising:
a communications device; and,
a computer program with computer-implemented instructions enabling the server computer to perform:

determining characteristics of a client from which the server receives a request; and

responding to the client by determining whether the request can be fulfilled; and

if the request cannot be fulfilled, responding according to the characteristics of the client by providing that the communications device send an error message to the client that will cause the client to send the request to an alternative server computer even if the client is non-delegable.

35. (New) The computer of claim 34, wherein the computer program is further designed to delegate the request to another server computer via the communications device in response to a request from a client of a second predetermined type when the server computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

36. (New) The computer of claim 34, wherein the computer program is further designed to fulfill the request when the server computer is appropriate to fulfill the request.